

The project activities in year two produced 545 trained youths across all commodities by ABUAD, IITA, and AfricaRice with (43.6% female and 56.4% male) out of which 470 youths (86.2%; 43.2% female and 56.8% male) received Grant Awards in both equipment and cash grants (\$500) to begin their agribusinesses in their respective rural areas.



Photo showing trained youth in Republic of Benin by AfricaRice with their equipment grant in Rice value addition



Photo showing trained youth in Nigeria by AfricaRice with their grant seed in Rice production

### Grants disbursement

The beneficiaries of grants awards were selected from both Nigeria and Benin Republic, and the grant is meant to establish mini agribusinesses in their respective localities. All the trained youths with grants across ABUAD, IITA and AfricaRice have received both cash and equipment grants, they are expected to make use of the newly acquired knowledge, skills, and competencies, and be involved in the community events and processes, from and around their new business centers.

The grant Grant Awards Certificates was presented to all the grants beneficiaries which indicated total grants received in cash and equipment which would enable them become gainfully employed via



Photo showing trained youth in Nigeria by IITA with their equipment grant in Fabrication & Mechanization



Photo showing trained youth in Republic of Benin by ABUAD with their equipment grant in Moringa value addition



Photo showing trained youth in Nigeria by ABUAD with their equipment grant in Fabrication & Mechanization

their agribusinesses in their respective rural areas. Thus, a total of USD 235,000 was invested in form of grants to create employment for 470 youths to begin their agribusinesses without delay. Grant recipients were encouraged to collaborate in their respective agribusiness enterprises as it is strongly believed that working in synergy, training other youths as well as employing some of the trained youths without grants will improve both productivity and profit margin.



Photo showing trained youth in Republic of Benin by IITA with their equipment grants in Cassava & Plantain value addition

### Monitoring the grant beneficiaries

Assessment and monitoring of all the 470 grant beneficiaries in 2020 is going to be periodic. A web-based interactive questionnaire for data collection has been developed where all the grant beneficiaries are expected to attest accurately if they are making use of the equipment collected in their respective agribusinesses as expected, and if they are eventually making profit to improve their livelihood. After this, there will be physical monitoring and evaluation to determine the impact of the project on the lives of the beneficiaries